#### BLOFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1896

To the Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Blofield Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, ladies & gentlemen,

In submitting my Annual Report for the year 1896 it is a pleasant task to record the Sanitary events of a year characterised by an exceptionally low death-rate and an almost entire absence of epidemic disease in your District.

In 1895 the death-rate had fallen to 13.2 per 1,000, the lowest point reached during the twelve years I have held the Office of Medical Officer of Health. This record has now been beaten by the death-rate for the past year declining still further to 11.5 per 1,000 population.

It is much to be regretted that no opportunity is now afforded for the comparison of this satisfactory state of the public health in your District with that of other rural Districts in the County. For some few years the Norfolk County Council arranged for the tabulation of vital statistics and occasionally for a synopsis of the Annual Reports of M.C.H.s, but this has been discontinued and no annual record of the health of the County as a whole is now published. The practical value of such a Report as was prepared by Dr.Cooper-Pattin for the year 1894 cannot well be appreciated by any lut Medical Officers of Health.

In such a report is to be found a standard by which an M.O.H. can guage the deficiencies (or otherwise) in the sanitation of his District and is also able to gain from it information of the greatest value in advising his Authority.

Pollowing the custom of former years in dealing with statistics, the County Asylum will be considered as outside the District.

<u>POPULATION</u>: Taking 30.2 (the average yearly increase for the decennial period 1881 - 91) as a basis of calculation, I estimate the population at the middle of 1896 to be 11,406

BIRTHS:- The total number of Births during the year was 299 (males 156 females 143). The Birth-rate stands at 25.3 per 1,000.

<u>DEATHS</u>: The number of deaths registered was 132. This gives the exceptionally low death-rate of 11.5 per 1,000 population.

INPANT MORTALITY: The number of deaths at ages under one year was 35 slightly in excess of last year. This gives a death-rate per 1,000 births of 117.05.

OLD AGE MORIALITY: Deaths registered at ages over 65 years number only 54 giving an old age mortality of 4.7 per 1,000 population.

ZYMOTIC DISEASE

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889, which works exceedingly smoothly in your District, enables me to furnish the following table showing the incidence of Infectious disease.

#### SLOFIELD RORAL DISTRICT COURCIL

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### Table prepared from Notification Certificates

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Prom this Table it will be seen that (excluding the Asylum) fortytwo Notifications only were received, and that these referred for the most part, to isolated cases. It can therefore be fairly stated that during the past year your District has been free from epidemic disease.

An analysis of the seven deaths which occurred from Zymotic disease is given in the subjoined Table:-

	Table show Scarlet Diphthe Fever	ing fatal Cases ria Mem: Typhoid Croup Fever	Whooping Measles	Total
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Sub-District Thorpe St.Andrew	0	0 0	online on one 1 but	0
Total	O. 100 O.	d has a bandon Broad	3 and 11 and	7

It will be noticed that in the Blofield Sub-District or Western half of the district deaths from infectious disease are represented by a single catal case of Messles. It will also be noticed that no deaths have been registered as due to Diphtheria, a disease which a short time ago was very prevalent in the District.

The Zymotic Death-rate stands at .61 per 1,000 population.

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The Zymogic Death-rate stands at . 81 per 1,000 population.

SCARLET FEVER: Of the sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever, five were notified from Halvergate. This outbreak happily did not extend into the magnitude of an epidemic. It was not found necessary to close the school, care being taken to exclude those children likely to carry infection. The remaining cases were scattered throughout the district and in many instances it was an easy matter to trace the source of infection from without.

DIFHTHERIA: Only eight cases of diphtheria and one under the somewhat indefinite nomenclature of "Membranous croup" were notified.

Three occurred in one house which was found to be in an unsanitary state. Steps were taken to remedy the defects.

TYPHOID FEVER: Pifteen cases were notified and two deaths were registered as due to this disease. With the exception of a group of three cases at Upton, which were introduced from Yarmouth, each case appeared to be quite unconnected with the remainder. No common cause can therefore be assigned for this somewhat unusually large amount of typhoid. Defective sanitary arrangements were discovered in some case and steps taken to remedy the same.

WHOOPING COUGH The District was comparatively free from this disease and it was not found necessary to close any Schools on account of its prevalence. I find, however, that three deaths among children under five years of age were registered as due to this cause.

MEASLES Information was received of outbreaks in Gt. Plumstead and Lingwood which necessitated the closing of the Schools in these parishes. The death of one infant resulted from the Lingwood outbreak.

MUMPS Cantley School was closed for one week in consequence of the prevalence of this affection.

### NEW BYE-LAWS

Urban powers having been acquired by the Authority leave was obtained from the Local Government Board on May 8th 1896 for the adoption of byo-laws with respect to new Streets and buildings. It was thought expedient to confine their operations, for the present, to the parish of Thorpe St. Andrew the most rapidly growing locality in the District. I desire to congratulate the Council on this initial step and feel little doubt that, as evidence accumulates of their usefulness in Thorpe similar bye-laws will be adopted for other localities where building is likely to take place.

The Sections 69 to 88 of these bys-laws which refer to the construction of privies, ash-pits and cesspools are of especial value in your District and it would be an undoubted advantage if these provisions could be extended so as to affect its entire area.

The Inspector of Nuisances reports the following nuisances dealt with during this year

Total 15	3.	
Dilapidated dwellings .	6	
Collections of garbage & foul accumulatio	ns. 3!	5
Deficient drainage		
Poul drains, cesspits etc. 4		
Insanitary Butcheries & Milk shops.	700	
" privy accommodation 1	9	
Deficient water supply		

SCARLET WEVER: - Of the minteen cases of Boarlot Fever, five were notified from Helvergate. This outbreak happily did not extend into the magnitude of an epidenic. It was not found necessary to close the sebook, dere being taken to exclude those children likely to carry infection. The remaining onces were neattered threat the district and in many instances it was an easy matter to trace the source of infertion from without.

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## THE PERSON NEW YORK STORY BRAJ-YELL WAR STORY

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Deficient water supply et sociation viro " Insenitary Sutcheries & Milk shops. 3 Foul drains cosspits etc. egecicab feelofted

Collections of gardens & fool accumulations. 35 Dilapidated dwellians

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# THORPE VILLAGE MAN MORE WAS TO THE WAR TO SEE THE THE PARTY OF THE PAR

Population, census 1891 - 1317 (without Asylum) Amount rate of increase 10.4

Estimated for middle of 1896 - 1370 - Rys-laws since

51 - birth rate 37.2 - has been now houses being passed Births death-rate 13.1 ... halag referred for allevations 18 -Deaths

At ages under one month At ages over 65 years From infectious disease O conting is now being Drowned in at inflations clause out a abmorative sociation At other ages & from other causes, 4 september makes the about your only three could be at at authorized and no

estion with the contrine of main and bing, Zymotic death-rate - zero.

on at the present time but little nec-Table showing the estimated population, the number of deaths, the death-rate and zymotic death-rate for the last five years. Handent of slop-water and the evertion

Year	Population	No. of deaths	Death-rate	Zymotic
				Death-rate
1892	1330	- Can 20 100000	15.0	4.5
1893	1340	26	19.1	2.1
1894	1350	18	13.3	0.00
1895	1360	15	11.0	. 07
1896	1370	18	13,1	CALL OF STREET

From the above statement of statistical facts it will be evident that the health of this village is maintained in a highly satisfactory state. It is true the death-rate is two points higher than in the previous year but on referring to the table giving the summary of deaths it will be found that the list is swelled by the deaths of five infants at ages under one month. Four of these infants were certified as dying from "premature birth" - a cause of death obviously unconnected with the sanitation of the village. But for this unusual mortality among newly born infants the death-rate would have been lower than has been the case for many years. I would do be

It is most satisfactory to record that no deaths from infectious disease were registered during the year in this village. Diphtheria was entirely absent.

Three cases of scarlet fever and two cases of Typhoid were notified. The scarlet fever cases occurred in dwelling houses where proper isolation was practicable and presented no difficulties.

Of the two cases of Typhoid fever the first was notified from a cottage in the Tan Yard. The source of infection was not discovered. This case was the cause of much anxiety and it required the greatest care to prevent it becoming the centre of an outbreak. Fortunately the pail system has superseded the old privy bin in this yard and it is in no small measure owing to this circumstance that an epidemic was averted. In connection with this case I desire to testify to the efficient way in which the public scavenger performed his duties both in removing daily the infected excreta and flushing the drains with

## TOALLY MERCET

Fopulation, census 1891 - 1317 (without Asplum)

\* Annual rate of increase 10.4

Entimeted for middle of 1896 - 1370

Births 51 - birth rate 37.5 Dearth 18 - death-rate 15.1

Surrency of deaths - week to the test to the test to

At ages over 65 years

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table showing the estimated population, the number of destination destinate and symotic destinate for the last flve years.

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corrosive sublimate solution.

The only other case of typhoid occurred in High House and was at

once traced to defective drainage.

The active building operations in the village fully justify the adoption by the Council of the Bye-laws regulating the construction of New Streets and Buildings. The working of these Bye-laws since May 8th 1896 has resulted in plans for thirteen new houses being passed one set of plans being rejected and two being referred for alterations.

Thorpe Village has received during the last five years a large share of the attention of the District Council and in addition to the many improvements carried out has had the advantage of an additional sanitary Inspector. The fruit of this extra attention is now being resped in an immunity of infectious disease and a comparative cessation of complaints of nuisances. Mr. King (the Inspector) reports that he received during the past year only three complaints of nuisances and no complaints whatever in connection with the emptying of pails and bins, a very marked difference from what was the state of the case a few years back. There seems, indeed, at the present time but little necessity for a special Inspector for Thorpe. It must not however be concluded that Thorpe is entirely without represen. A class of nuisances connected with the disposal of slop-water and the overflow from cesspools has not yet been satisfactorily dealt with. among them is the "Station Ditch nuisance," which has formed the subject of many reports. This is a matter of serious importance and one which must be taken in hand by the Council sconer or later. I have already advised for the abatement of this nuisance a scheme which I believe would be successful and entail only a small expenditure. The main difficulty is to be found in determining on whom the expense should fall - on the rate payer or on private individuals contributing to the nuisance. On this point, I am happy to say, it is not the duty of your Medical Officer to advise.

THE COUNTY ASYLUM An annual report on the health of this institution is furnished by the Resident Medical Superintendent. During the past year I have received notification of one case of Diphtheria and three of Typhoid fever. There were no deaths from infectious disease.

Included in the 79 deaths were 13 cortified as due to Phthisis

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT H. BACK M. B.

Med. Off. of Health.

Reepham

April 1897.

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April 1897. the same of the sa